

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This election and preliminary amendment is responsive to the April 17, 2006 Office Action and is submitted prior to any substantive examination by the Patent Office of any of the claims in the original application herein. In the April 17, 2006 Office Action, Examiner took the position that the application comprises three distinct inventions comprising claims 1-20, claims 21-33, and claims 34-37. By this amendment, Applicant elects Group II (the method claims 21-33) and cancels claims 1-20 and claims 34-37 without prejudice to any current or future application covering the same or similar subject matter.

As for the preliminary amendment, Applicant cancels claims 21-33 in favor of new claims 38-59 submitted herein. The new claims comprise no new matter.

With the above-referenced preliminary amendments, it is believed that the application is in a condition for examination. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner pass the application on to allowance. If a telephone interview will advance the allowance of the application, enabling an Examiner's amendment or other meaningful discussion of the case, Applicant requests the Examiner contact Applicant's representative at the number listed below.

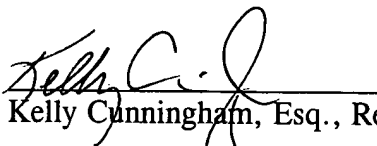
Application No. 10/798,738
Status Inquiry dated June 16, 2006
Attorney Docket No. 04-13259

It is not believed that any additional fees are due; however, in the event any additional fees are due, the Examiner is authorized to charge Applicant's attorney's deposit account no. 03-2030.

Respectfully submitted,

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